

REMARKS

This case has been carefully reviewed and analyzed in view of the Final Office Action dated 13 September 2002. Responsive to the rejections made in that Action, Claims 4 and 5 have now been amended for further prosecution. It is believed that with such amendment of Claims, there is a further clarification of Applicant's invention for this Patent Application.

In the Final Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102, as being anticipated by the Chen reference. The Examiner correlated a number of Chen's features with Applicants' claimed features. Notably, the Examiner stated in this regard, with reference to Chen's FIG. 4, that Chen's stator structure shows a "main body portion of the silicon-steel plate being formed into a cylinder with the plurality of tooth portions extending radial[ly] there from."

This is somewhat puzzling, as the intermediate, or body, portion of Chen's stator structure 1 is clearly shown to be formed by a plurality of spaced "waist posts 12" (Column 3; line 45). These "four pieces of waist posts 12" (Column 3; line 31) form simply axial strips that are plainly separated by gaps extending axially therebetween. The resulting structure hardly forms a "cylinder" - no matter how liberal a definition is given to the geometric term. This is underscored by the Chen reference itself which repeatedly specifies that this segmented structure is discontinuously formed by "N pieces of waist posts...wherein N is an integer greater than 1," (Column 1; line 42; lines 48-49).

Applicants' apparatus is quite different both in its structure and the processing steps for realizing that structure. So as to clarify even more that the main body portion of Applicants' stator structure is in fact formed into a "cylinder," newly-amended independent Claim 4 now recites "said main body portion...being formed into a tubular cylinder," such that a "plurality of tooth portions extend[] radially therefrom." Newly-amended independent Claim 5 likewise more clearly recites among its processing steps "rolling said main body into a tubular cylindrical shape with said plurality of tooth portions extending radially therefrom." Far from disclosing Applicants' stator structure having such features, the N-pieced, segmented structure prescribed by Chen teaches quite distinctly away.

It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that the cited Chen reference fails to disclose the unique combination of elements now more clearly recited by Applicants' pending Claims for the purposes and objectives disclosed in the subject Patent Application. The other reference cited by the Examiner but not used in the rejection has been considered, but is believed to be further remote from Applicants' stator structure when patentability considerations are taken into account.

MR2349-719

It is now believed that the subject Patent Application has been placed in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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